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obsession of the public mind in favor of insurance." Yet insurance must change to meet the demands of experience, and the Webbs believe that the more compulsory it is the more rapidly will the public see the necessity for a preventive policy.

Chapter VIII, "The Enlarged Sphere of Voluntary Agencies," is a fresh and stimulating discussion. The English development of the charity organization movement is apparently quite different from that in America, though the writers display little familiarity with our situation. The overlapping, lack of wise methods, etc., is justly criticised. Here in America the need of some common register for those relieved is felt and often discussed—to it one chapter is devoted.

Very timely, too, is the closing chapter on "The Moral Factor," for "the researcher and experimenter will have to remember that the worst of the evils which he is seeking to overcome is not the material privation or physical suffering which destitution connotes, but the moral degradation with which it is, in modern communities, almost always accompanied."

The book is written in popular style, with all references at the end of each chapter. It deals primarily with English conditions. Nevertheless, the views presented have a far wider significance, and all Americans dealing with the problems of poverty will get much benefit therefrom. Many of the criticisms apply in America and deserve careful consideration. Many of the positive suggestions do not fit our conditions, as is to be expected. A thoughtful and thought-provoking discussion.

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Wehberg, Hans. *Capture in War On Land and Sea.* Pp. xxxv, 228. Price, 5s. London: P. S. King & Son, 1911.

What the armed forces of the belligerents may and may not do with property, public or private, on land or on sea forms the subject matter of this volume. After an interesting historical introduction the author takes up the seizure of property on land with especial reference to the regulations adopted at the two Hague Conferences. The short chapter on railways is particularly interesting.

Dr. Wehberg then passes on to what seems to be his chief interest in the book: "The Necessity for the Abolition of the Law of Prize at Sea." He first devotes a chapter to the reasons for the retention of the right of capture, offering arguments in refutation of the reasons as they are passed in review. In the next chapter a general argument for the abolition of the seizure of property at sea is given. Neither the arguments for nor against can be said to show any great originality of subject matter or treatment, but the authorities have been well handled and the opinions and experience of statesmen, jurists, economists, and shipowners have been drawn up. The treatment is logical and not too technical for the comprehension of the general reader.

It is perhaps hardly fair to lay too much emphasis upon certain faults

of construction, as that the authorities are not always well selected. Because an individual has written an imposing looking treatise on international law it does not follow that it is worth the notice of serious students. With obvious inconsistency the author contends (p. 143) that England would not be especially vulnerable because of the capture of her merchant ships by the enemy, yet further along (p. 173) the following statement is made: "While, then, the trade of other belligerent powers can mostly be taken over by other and neutral marines, this is not possible to the same degree for England. That country will thus be forced to carry on its trade partly with its own vessels, and that means a special prospect of capture for the English ships."

American readers will be shocked to find the great Wheaton called an Englishman (p. 113) and the foreign trade of the United States left out of a table which includes Finland, Norway, and Greece. However, their patriotic pride cannot but be touched by the closing sentence of the book: "In spite of all past failures one may, believing in the continued evolution of all human institutions, express the hope that at no very distant date, under the firm guidance of North America, the powers will pursue the course laid down for them not only by humane considerations, but also by modern conceptions of the nature of war."

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Wilcox, Delos F. *Municipal Franchises.* Vol. II. Pp. xxi, 885. Price, \$5.00. New York: Engineering News Company, 1911.

In spite of the widespread public interest in all questions affecting the relation of the municipality to public utilities, there has been but little attempt to give a systematic presentation of the subject. It is true that every work dealing with municipal government has attempted some discussion of the questions involved, and a number of legal treatises such as Foote and Everett's "Law of Incorporated Companies Operating Under Municipal Franchises" have dealt with the juristic aspects of the question.

The work of Dr. Wilcox, of which the second volume has just appeared, is the first attempt to present a thorough discussion of every aspect of the relation of municipalities to quasi-public works. In subjecting these questions to careful, unprejudiced scientific analysis Dr. Wilcox has done a service not only to students of municipal affairs, but also to a great number of state and municipal officials who are compelled to deal in a practical way with these questions.

The first volume contained some introductory chapters on the legal nature of the franchise, the method of acquiring franchise rights and the limitation of monopoly profits, but the greater portion of the work (Chapters VI to XXI, inclusive) was devoted to a careful analysis of typical franchises, including electric light, heat and power, telephone, telegraph, water, sewer, refrigeration, pneumatic, oil pipe and artificial and natural gas.

The greater part of Vol. II (Chapters XXII to XXXVIII, inclusive) deals